

**MECHANICAL, MORPHOLOGICAL, THERMAL,
AND DURABILITY PROPERTIES OF RESIN
TRANSFER MOULDED KENAF FIBRE
REINFORCED UNSATURATED POLYESTER
COMPOSITES**

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**MECHANICAL, MORPHOLOGICAL, THERMAL, AND DURABILITY
PROPERTIES OF RESIN TRANSFER MOULDED KENAF FIBRE
REINFORCED UNSATURATED POLYESTER COMPOSITES**

by

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TABLE OF CONTENTS

Acknowledgment	ii
Table of Contents	iii
List of Tables	ix
List of Figures	xi
List of Abbreviations	xx
List of Symbols	xxii
Abstrak	xxiii
Abstract	xxv
 CHAPTER 1- INTRODUCTION	 1
1.1 Introduction	1
1.1.1 Kenaf Fibre	1
1.1.2 Fibre Treatment	2
1.1.3 Nonwoven Kenaf Fibre Mat	4
1.1.4 Resin Transfer Moulding Process	4
1.1.5 Environment exposures	5
1.2 Problem Statement	7
1.3 Objectives of Study	9
1.4 Hypothesis	9
 CHAPTER 2 - LITERATURE REVIEW	 11
2.1 Definition of Composites Materials	11

2.2	Fibre Reinforced Polymer Composites	13
	2.2.1 Natural Fibres	14
	2.1.2 Kenaf Fibre	21
	2.1.3 Unsaturated Polyester	23
2.3	Composites Manufacture	26
	2.3.1 Fabrication Processes	26
	2.3.2 Manufacturing of Nonwoven KF Composite by RTM	32
	2.3.2.1 Nonwoven KF Mat Fabrication	32
	2.3.2.2 Resin Transfer Moulding Process	35
2.3	Micromechanical Modelling	40
	2.3.1 Tsai – Pagano	42
	2.3.2 Christensen Formula	44
	2.3.3 Puck/Manera	44
	2.3.4 Rule of Mixture	45
	2.3.5 Modified of Rule of Mixture	47
2.4	Natural Fibre Treatment	48
	2.4.1 Alkali Treatment	49
	2.4.2 Heat Treatment	52
2.5	Environmental Exposures	55
	2.5.1 Water Absorption and Hygrothermal Ageing	55
	2.5.2 Natural Weathering	57
2.6	Summary	58
	 CHAPTER 3 – EXPERIMENTAL	 61
3.1	Materials	61

3.1.1.	Matrix	61
3.1.2.	Nonwoven Kenaf Mat	62
3.2.	Fibre Treatment	65
3.2.1.	Alkali Treatment	65
3.2.2.	Heat Treatment	66
3.3.	Composite Manufacture	67
3.3.1.	Nonwoven Mat Preparation	67
3.3.2.	Mould Preparation	67
3.3.3.	Resin Transfer Moulding	69
3.4.	Material Testing	71
3.4.1.	X ray diffraction	71
3.4.2.	FTIR Analysis	71
3.4.3.	X-ray Photoelectron Spectroscopy (XPS)	72
3.4.3.	Density Measurement	72
3.4.5.	Scanning Electron Microscope (SEM)	73
3.4.6.	Optical Microscope	73
3.4.7.	Atomic Force Microscope (AFM)	74
3.4.8.	Thermogravimetric Analysis (TGA)	74
3.4.9.	Dynamic mechanical analysis (DMA)	75
3.4.10.	Contact Angle Measurement	75
3.4.11.	Single Fibre Tensile Test	77
3.4.12.	Tensile Properties Test	77
3.4.13.	Interlaminar Shear Strength (ILSS)	78
3.4.14.	Flexural Properties	78
3.4.15.	Fracture Toughness Test	78

3.4.16. Colour Change Measurement	80
3.4.17. Hygrothermal Ageing Test	81
3.4.18. Natural Weathering Test.....	82
 CHAPTER 4 - RESULTS AND DISCUSSION	 84
4.1. Introduction	84
4.1.1. Densities of Fibre	84
4.1.2. Single Fibre Tensile Properties	85
4.1.3. Chemical composition	87
4.1.4. X-Ray Diffraction	90
4.1.5. Thermogravimetric Analysis	92
4.1.6. Scanning Electron Microscope	96
4.1.7. Atomic Force Microscope	101
4.1.8. Contact Angle	112
4.1.9. X-Ray Photoelectron Spectroscopy	116
4.1.10 Summary of Fibre Test Results	120
4.2. Effect of Needle Punching Direction	121
4.2.1. Structure of Mat	122
4.2.2. Flexural Properties of Composites	125
4.2.3. Fracture Toughness of Composites	128
4.3. Effect of Treatment Time on Mechanical Properties of Composites	129
4.3.1. Interlaminar Shear Strength of Composites	129
4.3.2. Flexural Properties of Composites	131
4.3.3. Fracture Toughness of Composites	133
4.4. Effect of Fibre Volume Fraction on KF Composite	134

4.4.1.	Flexural Properties of Composites	137
4.4.2.	Fracture Toughness of Composites	138
4.4.3.	Fracture Surface Micrograph	139
4.5.	Micromechanics Modelling of Tensile Properties	141
4.5.1.	Tensile Strength Prediction Modelling	143
4.5.2.	Elastic Modulus Prediction Modelling	146
4.6.	Thermal properties	148
4.6.1.	Thermogravimetric Analysis of Composites	148
4.6.2.	Dynamic Mechanical Analysis of Composites	150
4.7.	Hygrothermal Ageing Exposure	153
4.7.1.	Kinetics of Water Absorption	153
4.7.2.	Mechanical Properties of Composites	161
4.7.2.1.	Flexural Properties of Composites	161
4.7.2.3.	Fracture Toughness of Composites	166
4.7.3.	Fracture Surface Micrographs of Composites	168
4.8.	Natural Weathering Exposure Treatment	179
4.8.1.	Meteorological Data	179
4.8.2.	Fourier Transform Infra-Red (FT-IR)	181
4.8.3.	Change in Surface Colour of Composites	186
4.8.4.	Thermogravimetric Analysis of Composites	189
4.8.5.	Surface Morphological Micrographs of Composites.....	192
4.8.6.	Mechanical Properties of Composites	197
4.8.7.	Fracture Surface Micrographs of Composites	202

CHAPTER 5 - CONCLUSIONS AND SUGGESTIONS FOR FUTURE WORKS

5.1.	Conclusions	205
5.2.	Suggestions for Future Works	207
	References	208
	List of Publication	

LIST OF TABLES

	Page
Table 2.1	Chemical composition and moisture content of lignocellulosic fibres 18
Table 2.2	Previous several studies on natural fibre composites that fabricated by RTM method 39
Table 2.3	Traditional Halpin-Tsai parameters for short-fibre composites 42
Table 2.4	Effect of alkali treatment (6% NaOH for 48 h at $19^{\circ}\pm 2^{\circ}\text{C}$) on fibre bulk density 51
Table 2.5	The optimum time of alkali treatment at similar concentration in different type of material 52
Table 2.6	The optimum time of heat treatment at similar temperature in different type of material 55
Table 3.1	Typical properties of Reversol P-9565 61
Table 3.2	Code of neat resin and its composites samples 70
Table 4.1	Characteristic vibration peaks of natural fibre 88
Table 4.2	TGA and DTG results of alkali treated KF 94
Table 4.3	TGA and DTG results of heat treated KF 96
Table 4.4	Contact angle, dispersion energy, polarity energy and surface energy of KF in different time of soaking in 6% NaOH 113
Table 4.5	Contact angle, dispersion energy, polarity energy and surface energy of KF in different time of heating at 140°C 115
Table 4.6	Mass percentages, O/C ratio, decomposition of C 1s peaks obtained by XPS on untreated, alkali and heat treated KF 117
Table 4.7	Summary of fibre test results 121
Table 4.8	Tensile properties of KF 142
Table 4.9	Tensile properties of matrix 142
Table 4.10	Error factor of tensile strength modeling toward tensile strength of experimental results 146
Table 4.11	Error factor of models toward elastic modulus of experimental 147

	results	
Table 4.12	TGA and DTG results of UPR, UKUPC30, HKUPC30, AKUPC3	149
Table 4.13	Value of maximum water uptake, diffusion coefficient, sorption coefficient and permeability coefficient for neat resin and composites at different ageing temperature	159
Table 4.14	Characteristic absorption peaks of UPR and its composites	184
Table 4.15	Carbonyl index and vinyl index of samples during natural weathering from 1 March 2013 until 28 February 2014	186
Table 4.16	Temperature of weight loss at 95%, onset and maximum loss for neat resin and its composites	191

LIST OF FIGURES

	Page
Figure 2.1	Classification of composite according to the type of matrix 12
Figure 2.2	Classification of composite according to the type of reinforcement 13
Figure 2.3	Type of fibres used as reinforcement in composites 14
Figure 2.4	(a) Microstructure of KF (b) representations of macrofibril and (c) microfibril of natural plant 16
Figure 2.5	Chemical structure of cellulose 17
Figure 2.6	A diagram of the unit cell of Cellulose I 19
Figure 2.7	TGA curve of as received KF 23
Figure 2.8	Reaction scheme of unsaturated polyester resins 25
Figure 2.9	a) Hand lay-up method and b) Spray-up method 27
Figure 2.10	Hot melt pre-preging process 28
Figure 2.11	Machine for producing SMC 29
Figure 2.12	Compression moulding with matched metal dies 30
Figure 2.13	Filament winding process 30
Figure 2.14	Pultrusion process 31
Figure 2.15	RTM process 32
Figure 2.16	Punching scheme 34
Figure 2.17	3 dimensional of axis direction in KF mat 34
Figure 2.17	Resin transfer moulding 35
Figure 2.18	Transverse velocity profile for “Preferential flow” 38
Figure 2.19	Type of fibre composite a) long fibre unidirectional b) long fibre woven c) randomly discontinous fibre d) hybrid 40
Figure 2.20	Stress distribution on fibre and matrix stressed in longitudinal direction 43

Figure 2.21	Stress distribution on fibre and matrix stressed in transverse direction	43
Figure 2.22	Representative stress strain curves for typical fiber, matrix and composites materials a) For matrix failure strain greater than fibre failure strain ($\epsilon_m > \epsilon_f$) b) Fibre failure strain greater than matrix failure ($\epsilon_m \leq \epsilon_f$)	46
Figure 2.23	Lattice structure of cellulose I and cellulose II	50
Figure 3.1	Processing scheme of nonwoven KF mat	63
Figure 3.2	Needle punching process	64
Figure 3.3	Interlocking system in nonwoven punched KF mat	64
Figure 3.4	Fibre length distribution of KF	65
Figure 3.5	Size of nonwoven KF mat	67
Figure 3.6	a) Top mould and b) bottom mould after cleaning	68
Figure 3.7	Rubber tape paste	68
Figure 3.8	Nonwoven KF mat position on mould	69
Figure 3.9	Position of mould	69
Figure 3.10	RTM process component	70
Figure 3.11	SEN-3PB specimen geometry used for the fracture toughness	79
Figure 3.12	Description of color change measurement	81
Figure 4.1	Densities of a) the alkali treated KF and b) heat treated KF	84
Figure 4.2	a) Tensile strength and b) tensile modulus of KF after alkali treatment in 6% NaOH solution	86
Figure 4.3	a) Tensile strength and b) tensile modulus of KF after heat treatment at 140°C	87
Figure 4.4	Fourier Transform Infra Red result of KF for different soaking time in 6% NaOH solution	88
Figure 4.5	Fourier Transform Infra-Red result of KF for different heating time at 140°C	89
Figure 4.6	a) X-ray diffraction and b) Crystallinity index of KF in different soaking time in 6% NaOH solution	90
Figure 4.7	a) X-ray diffraction and b) Crystallinity index of KF in	92

different heating time at 140°C

Figure 4.8	a) Thermogravimetry (TG) and b) derivative thermogravimetry (DTG) for KF after alkali treatment in different time of soaking	93
Figure 4.9	a) Thermogravimetry (TG) and b) Derivative thermogravimetry (DTG) for KF after heat treatment in different time of heating	95
Figure 4.10	SEM micrographs of KF surface after alkali treatment for a) untreated b) 1 h c) 2 h d) 3 h e) 4 h and f) 5 h (Magnification: 1000X)	97
Figure 4.11	SEM micrographs of KF surface after heat treatment for of a) 2.5 h b) 5 h c) 7.5 h d) 10 h and e) 12.5 h (Magnification: 1000X)	99
Figure 4.12	Atomic force microscope of kenaf fibre after alkali treatment for a) untreated b) 1 h c) 2 h d) 3 h e) 4 h and f) 5 h	101
Figure 4.13	2 dimensional roughness on x and y axis of KF after alkali treatment for a) untreated b) 1 h c) 2 h d) 3 h e) 4 h and f) 5 h	104
Figure 4.14	a) 2D Roughness and RMS b) area peak density of alkali treated KF in different time of soaking	106
Figure 4.15	Atomic force microscope of KF after heat treatment for a) 2.5h b) 5 h c) 7.5 h d) 10 h and e) 12.5 h	106
Figure 4.16	2 dimensional roughness on x and y axis of KF after heat treatment for a) 2.5h b) 5 h c) 7.5 h d) 10 h and e) 12.5 h	108
Figure 4.17	a) 2D Roughness and RMS b) area peak density of heat treated KF in different time of heating	110
Figure 4.18	Adhesion force diagram of a) untreated KF b) 10 h heat treated KF at 140°C c) 3 h alkali treated KF in 6% NaOH	111
Figure 4.19	a) Adhesion energy diagram of a) untreated KF b) 10 h heat treated KF at 140°C c) 3 h alkali treated KF in 6% NaOH	112
Figure 4.20	Adhesion properties of KF (untreated, 10 h heat treatment at 140°C and 3 h alkali treatment in 6% NaOH)	112
Figure 4.21	Wetting curves of KF vs time for a) alkali treated KF in distilled water b) heat treated KF in distilled water c) alkali treated KF in 50% ethylene glycol d) heat treated KF in 50% ethylene glycol	115
Figure 4.22	Surface tension measurement result of uncured unsaturated	116

polyester

Figure 4.23	XPS high resolution spectra from carbon C1s region: (a) untreated KF (b) alkali treated KF c) heat treated KF	119
Figure 4.24	a) plane coordinate direction of punching on nonwoven KF mat b) 3 dimensional axis direction of punching on mat	122
Figure 4.25	Nonwoven KF mat at a) x-y plane b) x-z plane	124
Figure 4.26	Distribution of fibre on a) y-z plane b) x-z plane of composite	125
Figure 4.27	a) Flexural strength b) flexural modulus UKUPC in 2 different punching directions	126
Figure 4.28	Scheme of stress distribution in 3 point bending testing	127
Figure 4.29	Scheme of tensile loading occurred on below region of composite according punching direction at a) 0° and at c) 90°	127
Figure 4.30	Fracture toughness of UKUPC in different punching direction	128
Figure 4.31	ILSS of a) alkali treated kenaf composites and b) heat treated KF composites in different time of treatment	130
Figure 4.32	Flexural properties of 30% V_f KF composites after alkali treatment at different time	131
Figure 4.33	Flexural properties of 30% V_f composites with KF after heat treatment at different time	132
Figure 4.34	Fracture toughness of a) alkali treated kenaf composite at different time of soaking b) heat treated kenaf composites at different time of heating	134
Figure 4.35	a) Densities of composites in different V_f b) volume fraction of void in different V_f	135
Figure 4.36	(a-c) Optical micrographs of polished cross section surfaces of the UKUPC at different magnification	136
Figure 4.37	a) Flexural strength and b) flexural modulus of composites at different volume fractions.	137
Figure 4.38	Fracture toughness composites at different volume fractions.	139
Figure 4.39	SEM micrographs of flexural fracture surface of: a) UKUPC30 b) HKUPC30 c) AKUPC30 (Magnification: 300X)	140
Figure 4.40	Stress-strain curves of neat resin and nonwoven punched KF	142

	composites	
Figure 4.41	Tensile strength prediction for a) UKUPC30 b) HKUPC30 c) AKUPC30	145
Figure 4.42	Elastic modulus prediction for a) UKUPC30 b) HKUPC 30 c) AKUPC30 in different volume fraction	147
Figure 4.43	a) TGA result and b) DTG result of UPR (as control), UKUPC30, HKUPC30 and AKUPC30.	149
Figure 4.44	a) Dynamic storage modulus and b) $\tan \delta$ of UPR, UKUPC30, HKUPC30 and AKUPC30	152
Figure 4.45	The water uptake of samples at various temperatures: a) room temperature b) 60°C c) 90°C	153
Figure 4.46	SEM micrograph of UPR surface after ageing in a) control condition b) room temperature c) 60°C d) 90°C (Magnification: 100X)	156
Figure 4.47	SEM micrograph of UKUPC30 surface after ageing in a) control condition b) room temperature c) 60°C d) 90°C (Magnification: 100X)	156
Figure 4.48	SEM micrograph of HKUPC30 surface after ageing in a) control condition b) room temperature c) 60°C d) 90°C (Magnification: 100X)	157
Figure 4.49	SEM micrograph of AKUPC30 surface after ageing in a) control condition b) room temperature c) 60°C d) 90°C (Magnification: 100X)	158
Figure 4.50	a) Flexural strength and b) flexural modulus of UPR and its composites after reach maximum water uptake	162
Figure 4.51	Mechanical properties of neat resin and kenaf fibre/unsaturated polyester composites after hygrothermal ageing for 2 months a) flexural Strength b) flexural Modulus	165
Figure 4.52	Fracture toughness of UPR and its composites after reach maximum water uptake	166
Figure 4.53	SEM micrographs of UPR surface after ageing in a) control condition b) room temperature c) 60°C d) 90°C (Magnification: 50X)	168
Figure 4.54	SEM micrographs of UKUPC30 surface after ageing in a) control condition b) room temperature c) 60°C d) 90°C (Magnification: 150X)	170

Figure 4.55	SEM micrographs of HKUPC30 surface after ageing in a) control condition b) room temperature c) 60°C d) 90°C (Magnification: 150X)	172
Figure 4.56	SEM micrographs of AKUPC30 surface after ageing in a) control condition b) room temperature c) 60°C d) 90°C (Magnification: 150X)	174
Figure 4.57	SEM micrographs of UPR surface after ageing for 2 months in a) 60°C and b) 90°C (Magnification: 50X)	176
Figure 4.58	SEM micrographs of UKUPC30 surface after ageing for 2 months in a) 60°C b) 90°C (Magnification: 150X)	177
Figure 4.59	SEM micrographs of HKUPC surface after ageing for 2 months in a) 60°C b) 90°C (Magnification: 150X)	178
Figure 4.60	SEM micrographs of AKUPC30 surface after ageing for 2 months in a) 60°C b) 90°C (Magnification: 150X)	178
Figure 4.61	Weather parameters throughout March 2013 until February 2014 a) monthly rainfall-number of rain days b) relative humidity -global radiation c) particulate matter, and d) temperature	180
Figure 4.62	FT-IR spectra of a) UPR, b) UKUPC30, c) HKUPC30, and d) AKUPC30 during different exposure period	182
Figure 4.63	Effect of natural weathering exposure on a) the relationship between green and red colour b) the relationship between blue and yellow colour c) the brightness relationship between light and dark d) total colour change	187
Figure 4.64	Exposed samples surface of a) UPR, b) UKUPC30, c) HKUPC30 and d) AKUPC30 in different time of natural weathering treatment	188
Figure 4.65	TGA and DTG curves of neat resin and its composite for a) control and b) 12 months	190
Figure 4.66	Micrographs of UPR samples exposed to natural weathering environment for different times: a) control b) 3 month c) 6 months, d) 9 months and f) 12 months (Magnification: 150X)	193
Figure 4.67	Micrographs of UKUPC30 samples exposed to natural weathering environment for: a) control b) 3 months c) 6 months d) 9 months and e) 12 months (Magnification: 150X)	195
Figure 4.68	Micrographs of HKUPC30 samples exposed to natural weathering environment for: a) control b) 3 months c) 6 months d) 9 months and e) 12 months (Magnification: 150X)	196

Figure 4.69	Micrographs of AKUPC30 samples exposed to natural weathering environment for: a) control b) 3 months c) 6 months d) 9 months and e) 12 months (Magnification: 150X)	197
Figure 4.70	(a) Flexural strength (b) flexural modulus and c) fracture toughness of neat resin and its composites at different time of natural weathering exposure	198
Figure 4.71	SEM micrographs of fracture surface of exposed samples a) UPR (Magnification: 150X) b) UKUPC30 c) HKUPC30 d) AKUPC30(Magnification: 300X)	202

LIST OF ABBREVIATIONS

AKUPC	Alkali Treated Kenaf Fibre Unsaturated Polyester Composite
AFM	Atomic Force Microscope
ASTM	American Society of Testing Material
DMA	Dynamic Mechanical Analysis
DTG	Differential Thermogravimetric Analysis
FT-IR	Fourier Transform Infra-Red
HKUPC	Heat Treated Kenaf Fibre Unsaturated Polyester Composite
IFSS	Interfacial Shear Strength
ILSS	Inter Laminar Shear Strength
KF	Kenaf Fibre
OWRK	Owens–Wendt–Rabel– Kaelble
SEM	Scanning Electron Microscope
SEN-B	Single End Notched - Bending
RMS	Root Mean Square
ROM	Rule Of Mixture
RTM	Resin Transfer Moulding
T _g	Glass Transition Temperature
TGA	Thermogravimetric Analysis
UKUPC	Untreated Kenaf Fibre Unsaturated Polyester Composite
UPR	Unsaturated Polyester
UV	Ultra Violet

XPS	X-Ray Photoelectron Spectroscopy
XRD	X-Ray Diffraction

LIST OF SYMBOLS

θ	Diffraction angle
d	Diameter of fibre
s	Fibre aspect ratio
E_{f1}	Elasticity Modulus of fibre in 1 st direction
σ_{c1}	Tensile strength of composite in 1st direction (<i>unidirectional</i>)
σ_{c2}	Tensile strength of composite in 2st direction (<i>unidirectional</i>)
τ_y	interfacial strength between fibre and matrix
E_c	Elasticity Modulus of composite in random fibre distribution
E_{11}/ E_{11}	Elasticity Modulus of composite in 1 st direction (Longitudinal)
E_{22}	Elasticity Modulus of composite in 2 st direction (Transverse)
E_f	Modulus of the fibre and matrix.
E_m	Modulus of the matrix
V_f	Volume fraction of fibre
ν_m	Poisson's ratio of the matrix
P_f	Fibre packing factor
S_c	Critical aspect ratio for the composite
τ_{iu}	Interfacial shear strength
σ_{fu}	Fibre ultimate strength
σ_f^*	Tensile stress in the fibre at matrix failure strain
σ_{mu}	Matrix ultimate strength
ξ	Parameter of particular elastic property
σ_m^I	Tensile stress in the matrix at fibre failure strain
σ_m^*	Tensile stress in the matrix at composites failure strain

W_f	Weight of fibre
W_m	Weight of matrix
δ_f	Density of fibre
δ_m	Density of matrix
t	Time
η	Viscosity
r	Radius of the capillary
θ	Contact angle
\tilde{r}	Packed fibre in a tube
τ	Tortuosity of the capillaries.
m	Mass of the adsorbed liquid
ρ	Density of the liquid
n	Number of capillaries
c	Empirical constant of the porosity and tortuosity of the capillaries
γ_L	Surface tension of liquid,
γ_s	Surface energy of solid
γ_s^P	Polar energy for solid,
γ_L^P	Polar energy for liquid
γ_s^d	Dispersion energy for solid
γ_L^d	Dispersion energy for liquid
Y	Shape factor of fracture toughness sample
P	Maximum load,
S	Length of the span
B	Thickness of fracture toughness sample
W	Width of fracture toughness sample

a	Total notch length of fracture toughness sample
L	Lightness
a	Chromaticity coordinates of red-green direction
b	Chromaticity coordinates of yellow-blue direction
ΔE_{ab}	The total change in colour
M_t	Water content (percent weight) at times t
M_1	Weight of the wet sample at a t_1
M_2	Weight of the wet sample at times and t_2
M_0	Initial weight of the sample
M_m	Maximum weight gain
h	Thickness of samples
D	Diffusion coefficient
S_c	Sorption coefficient
P_c	Permeability coefficient
E'	Storage modulus
$\tan \delta$	Tangent delta

**SIFAT-SIFAT MEKANIKAL, MORFOLOGI, TERMA DAN KETAHANAN
KOMPOSIT POLIESTER TAK TEPU DIPERKUAT GENTIAN KENAF
YANG DIHASILKAN MELALUI KAEDAH PENGACUAN PEMINDAHAN
DAMAR**

ABSTRAK

Dalam kajian ini, sifat-sifat komposit polyester tak tepu diperkuat dengan lembaran gentian kenaf (KF) tak teranyam yang dihasilkan dengan cara pengacuan pemindahan damar (RTM) telah dikaji. Lembaran gentian kenaf tak teranyam telah dirawat dengan alkali dan haba untuk jangkamasa yang berbeza sebelum proses pengacuan. Rawatan alkali telah menyebabkan penyingkiran sebahagian kandungan hemi-selulosa dan lignin dan telah dibuktikan melalui ujian spektroskopi infra-merah jelmaan Fourier (FTIR), analisis pembelauan sinar-X (XRD), mikroskop elektron imbasan (SEM) dan spektroskopi fotoelektron sinar-X (XPS). Sementara itu, rawatan haba hanya menyingkirkan bendasing dan kandungan sari. Penyingkiran bahan-bahan ini secara langsung meningkatkan sifat pelekatan dan kekuatan gentian seterusnya menambah baik kekuatan ricih antara laminar (ILSS), tegangan dan kekuatan lenturan komposit. Namun begitu rawatan alkali menghasilkan komposit yang mempunyai sifat-sifat mekanikal yang lebih baik daripada rawatan haba. Gentian kenaf yang paling optimum untuk rawatan alkali adalah yang direndam dalam larutan 6% NaOH selama 3 jam, manakala untuk rawatan haba pula adalah gentian kenaf yang dirawat pada suhu 140 °C selama 10 jam. Hasil ujian eksperimen ke atas komposit diperkuat gentian kenaf tak terawat dan terawat didapati selari dengan hasil ujian pemodelan mikro-mekanik. Hasil ujian DMA menunjukkan